

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Elliott Chen on February 19, 2009.

2. The following claims had been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium encoded with a first data structure and a second data structure, comprising:

a first parameter definition for a first input parameter, the first parameter definition to enable identification of an appropriate first input for the first input parameter, wherein the first parameter definition is a declared property of the first data structure;

a second parameter definition for a second input parameter, the second parameter definition to enable identification of an appropriate second input for the second input parameter, wherein the second parameter definition is a declared property of the second data structure; and

an instruction-based mechanism to use the first parameter definition to identify the appropriate first input for the first input parameter, and use the second parameter definition to identify the appropriate second input for the second input parameter,

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wherein the instruction-based mechanism is to further enable the first data structure to process the first input parameter based on the appropriate first input identified from an input source to output an object, and provide the object as an input for the second data structure input parameter to be processed by the second data structure by passing a reference of the object to the second data structure, and the instruction-based mechanism is to further enable the second data structure to process the second input parameter based on the appropriate second input identified from the input source, when the first and second data structures become instantiated into objects.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein at least one of the parameter definitions comprises a data type and a name for the expected input parameter.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 6, wherein at least one of the parameter definitions comprises a data type and a name for the expected input parameter, and wherein the mechanism further coerces the value having a first data type into a converted value having a second data type specified in the definition.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) A computer-executable method for processing an input source, the method comprising:

retrieving a first parameter definition for a first input parameter, the first parameter definition to enable identification of an appropriate first input for the first input parameter, wherein the first parameter definition is a declared property of the first data structure;

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retrieving a second parameter definition for a second input parameter, the second parameter definition to enable identification of an appropriate second input for the second input parameter, wherein the second parameter definition is a declared property of the second data structure;

identifying the appropriate first input from ~~an~~ the input source based on the first parameter definition;

identifying the appropriate second input from the input source based on the second parameter definition;

instantiating the first data structure into a first data structure object;

instantiating the second data structure into a second data structure object;

processing the first input parameter on the first data structure object using the appropriate first input to output an object;

providing the object as an input for the second data structure object ~~input parameter~~ by passing a reference of the object to the second data structure object; ~~and~~

processing the object on the second data structure object; and

processing the second input parameter on the second data object using the appropriate second input.

Claim 20 Canceled.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended) A system to handle input parameters, the system comprising:

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a processor ~~means for processing~~; and

a memory ~~means~~, the memory ~~means~~ being allocated for a plurality of computer-executable instructions which are loaded into the memory ~~means~~ for execution by the processor ~~means for processing~~, the computer-executable instructions performing a method comprising:

~~a means for~~ retrieving a first parameter definition for a first input parameter, the first parameter definition to enable identification of an appropriate first input for the first input parameter, wherein the first parameter definition is a declared property of a first data structure;

~~a means for~~ retrieving a second parameter definition for a second input parameter, the second parameter definition to enable identification of an appropriate second input for the second input parameter, wherein the second parameter definition is a declared property of a second data structure;

~~a means for~~ identifying the appropriate first input from an input source based on the first parameter definition;

identifying the appropriate second input from the input source based on the second parameter definition;

instantiating the first data structure into a first data structure object;

instantiating the second data structure into a second data structure object;

~~a means for~~ processing the first input parameter on the first data structure object using the appropriate first input to output an object as an input for the second data structure object ~~input parameter~~ by passing a reference of the object to the second data structure object; ~~and~~

~~a means for~~ processing the object on the second data structure object ~~when the object is identified as the appropriate second input based on the second parameter definition;~~ and

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processing the second input parameter on the second data object using the appropriate second input.

Claim 29 Canceled

Claim 39 (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 28
~~claim 29~~, wherein the input source comprises a string.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 39
~~claim 40~~, wherein the string comprises a part of a script.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 39
~~claim 40~~, wherein the string comprises a part of a command string entered on a command line.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 28
~~claim 29~~, wherein at least one of the parameter definitions comprises a data type and a name for
the expected input parameter.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 28
~~claim 29~~, wherein the input source comprises a set of objects.

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Claim 45 (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 28
~~claim 29~~, wherein the input source comprises a precisely parseable stream.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1-19, 21-28 and 39-46, the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the limitations recited in claims 1, 19 and 28, when taken in the context of the claims as a whole, specific to a system/method for retrieving a first parameter definition for a first input parameter, the first parameter definition to enable identification of an appropriate first input for the first input parameter, wherein the first parameter definition is a declared property of the first data structure, retrieving a second parameter definition for a second input parameter, the second parameter definition to enable identification of an appropriate second input for the second input parameter, wherein the second parameter definition is a declared property of the second data structure, identify the appropriate first input for the first input parameter using the first parameter definition, and identify the appropriate second input for the second input parameter using the second parameter definition, the first and second data structures become instantiated into the first and second objects, respectively, processing the first and the second input parameters from an input source by the first and the second objects, respectively, wherein processing the first input parameter output an object, and provide the object as an input for the second object and processed by the second object.

Moreover, evidence for modifying the prior art teachings by one of ordinary skill level in the art was not uncovered so as to result in the invention as recited in claims 1, 19 and 28.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. The drawings filed 10/24/2003 are acceptable.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DIEM K. CAO whose telephone number is (571)272-3760. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Meng-Ai An/

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195

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